

PATENT S/N: 09/603,727
Attorney's Docket No. SST/1070

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Lee. W. Mueller

Conf. No. 1985

Application No.: 09/603,727

Examiner: KRAMER, James A.

Filed: June 23, 2000

Art Unit: 3692

For: PRE-ASSEMBLED INTERNAL SHEAR PANEL

MAIL STOP RCE

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

***INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT SUBMITTED WITH A REQUEST FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION FILED PRIOR TO PAYMENT OF THE ISSUE FEE***

Prosecution in the above-identified application is closed, as the Patent Office has issued a Notice of Allowance. This is a request for continued examination, accompanied by the appropriate fee and this submission, prior to payment of the Issue Fee. The submission constitutes an Information Disclosure Statement only. No changes to the claims are requested.

Applicant believes that no extension of time is required; however, this is a conditional petition and authorization to pay the necessary fees under 37 CFR §1.36(a) to provide for the possibility that Applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition and fee for extension of time.

Applicant submits herewith patents, publications or other information, of which Applicant is aware that Applicant believes may be material to the examination of this application, and in respect of which, there may be a duty to disclose. The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists. The filing of this

information disclosure statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. (Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.)

This information disclosure statement is accompanied by Form PTO/SB/08 (substitute for Form PTO-1449) and legible copies of all cited foreign patent documents and non-patent literature listed in said form. Pursuant to Notice of August 5, 2003, copies of cited U.S. patent documents and publications are not enclosed.

Further, in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) and MPEP§ 609(III)(A)(3), Applicant submits that reference nos. B1 through and B3 are not in the English language and submits the following concise statements as to their relevance. Applicant's attorney has in his possession what appear to be partial translations of these references and is enclosing those partial translations with the references.

B1 — Published Japanese Patent Application JP S54-152319-A

According to the partial translation, included with the this information disclosure statement, and the drawings, Applicants believe JP S54-152319-A describes an architectural panel having framing members or "a frame body" (1), a panel or "armoring material" (2), and a "band plate" (4) which appears to have triangular nail prongs or "wedge pieces" (3). The "band plate" (4) is disposed between the "frame body" (1) and the "armoring material" (2) and appears to attach to the "frame body" (1) and the "armoring material" (2) by means of the "wedge pieces" (3).

B2 — Published Japanese Utility Model Application JP S60-122420-U1

According to the partial translation, included with the this information disclosure statement, and the drawings, Applicants believe JP S60-122420-U1 describes a connection of a panel or plate to a frame member, the connection having a "plate" (4), a panel outer frame member (5), a c-shaped reinforcing member or "reinforcing fitting" (7) which appears to have a pair of side pieces (7a and 7b), and a "fastener" (6). The "reinforcing fitting" (7) clamps around the "plate" with one side piece (7b) of the "reinforcing fitting" (7) being disposed between the "plate" (4) and the frame member (5). The "reinforcing fitting" (7) appears to be attached to the "plate" (4) and the frame member (5) by means of a fastener 6 that runs through the side pieces (7a and 7b) of the "reinforcing fitting" (7) and through the "plate" (4) and the frame member (5).

B3 — Published Japanese Patent Application JP S60-85144-A

According to the partial translation, included with the this information disclosure statement, and the drawings, Applicants believe JP S60-85144-A describes a wall panel having frame members, consisting of end longitudinal frame members (2 or 2'), upper frame members (3 or 3') and lower frame members (4 or 4'), a structural surface member which Applicants believe is labeled 8 in the drawings, surface member fitting portions (2b or 2b', 3b', and 4b or 4b'), and fasteners 20. The surface member fitting portions (2b or 2b', 3b', and 4b or 4b')

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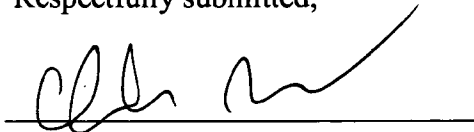
appear to receive the edges of the structural surface member (8). The surface member fitting portions (2b or 2b', 3b', and 4b or 4b') appear to be attached to the frame members (2 or 2', 3 or 3', and 4 or 4') either with the aid of fasteners 20 that also pierce the structural surface member 8 or without the aid of fasteners 20.

The person making this certification is the practitioner who signs below on the basis of the information supplied by the inventor(s) and in the practitioner's file.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 and the requisite fee under 37 CFR §1.17(e).

While no further fee is believed to be due for this paper, if this belief is in error, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 03-4075 (Atty. Dkt. No. SST/1070).

Respectfully submitted,



Charles R. Cypher
Law Offices of James R. Cypher
405 14th Street
Suite 1607
Oakland, CA 94612

Date: March 26, 2006

Reg. No.: 41,694

Tel. No.: 510-832-4111

Fax No.: 510-832-4115

Customer No.: 498

Attachments: Return Receipt Post Card
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3 cited references with partial translations attached